

Development of Devi Ahilya Bai Museum

†1367. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to the tune of Rs. 102 lakhs from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for the cost of improvement and development of Devi Ahilya Bai Museum at Maheswar and Khargen;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard and by when the same would be approved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The proposal of Devi Ahilya Bai Museum was received during 2004-05 and was placed before the Expert Committee constituted under the scheme of 'Promotion & Strengthening of Regional & Local Museums' in its meeting held on 25.11.2004. The Expert Committee did not recommend the proposal, as construction of museums is not covered under the scheme.

Destruction of historical and ancient monuments

1368. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many protected and unprotected historical and ancient monuments have been destroyed and continued to be destroyed due to rapid and unguided urbanization;

(b) if so, the details about such monuments destroyed so far and the reasons for their destruction;

(c) whether it is a fact the weak framework of law is the main reason for destruction of these monuments;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering having a strong legal framework for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be in place?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) 35 centrally protected monuments/sites are reported to be untraceable all over the country. The major causes for the disappearance of these

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.